—Encourage locational dispersal of pig iron making facilities.

—Setting up of linkage Committee to provide coal and iron ore linkages to the prospective entrepreneurs for the production of pig iron.

—Encouraging creation of capacities for the manufacture of merchant coke, for use by the pig iron pro ducers.

Accidents in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

4242. DR. YELAMANCHILI STVA-II: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents which took place in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, since it went into production; and

(b) what is the total loss of production therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The first major unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant viz. Coke Oven Battery was commissioned in September, 1989. The details of accidents since then are as follows:—

	Reportable	Fatal
VSP Employees	461	4
Contractor's Employees	20	38

(b) While there has been no production loss which could be directly attributable to the accidents, however, that did at times result in industrial relations problems in the Plant. The consequent loss in production was- as under:—

Item	Quantity (in tonnes)
(i) Coke	1433
(ii) Sinter	45065
(iii) Hot Metal	19228
(iv) Liquid Steel	14492
(v) Pig Iron	5268
(vi) Billets	9124
(vii) Wire Rod	5604

Mini Steel Plants

4243. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister Of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mini Steel Plants in the country at present, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Mini Steel Plants are still facing acute crisis due to the rising prices of raw materials like Hot Bricket-ted Iron (HBI) and Sponge Iron; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps Government propose, to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The requisite information is annexed as Statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) The duty on imported steel melting scrap which is a major raw material for mini steel plants has been reduced in January, 1992 from 35 per cent to 10 per cent. The resultant decrease in the landed cost of imported scrap has also brought down the prices of sponge iron and Hot Briquetted Iron (HBI).

Statement

Sl.	State/Union Territory No.	Number of Mini Steel plants
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2	Assam	2
3	Bihar.....	6